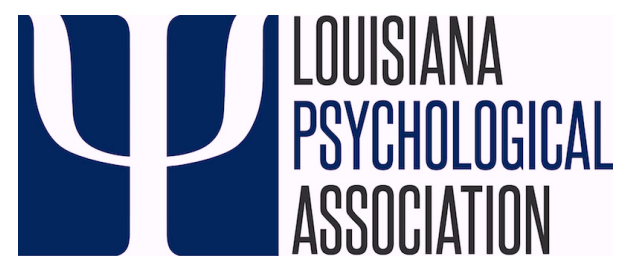


News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

for members of the Louisiana
Psychological Association



February–March 2019

News from the Executive Council...

Annual Meeting June 14, Ex Council to Meet at Convention

The Annual meeting of the association will take place at the convention, specifically starting at 11:30 am on June 14, with a recess and then to reconvene after the Awards Ceremony which begins at 5:40 pm. The Executive Council will hold its quarterly meeting during the final session of the convention, June 15, as a fishbowl, experience for attendees and including out-going and in-coming Council members. The Council held its 1st Quarter meeting on January 19 at Kim VanGeffen's home in New Orleans, and worked on organizational development goals, membership development, and passed a motion to fund a new website design company.

Nominations for the Executive Council and President-Elect Now Open

The President opened member self-nominations, or other nominations, for the 2019-2020 Executive Council, including nominations for President-Elect, Secretary, and two Directors. Please contact Julie Nelson at drj@drjulienelson.com if you have interest in serving on the Council.

Council Reminds Members to Pay Their 2019 Dues

President-Elect Alan Coulter and John Fanning, Co-Chairs for Membership, remind anyone who has not yet paid their 2019 dues to go to the website and update your membership asap. Thanks to all those who have renewed.

Members' News...

Drs. Coulter, DeGrange, Raines and Seymour Attend APA Advocacy and Leadership

Four LPA members—Alan Coulter, Lucinda DeGrange, Amanda Raines and Lacey Seymour—attended the yearly meeting at APA in March, "Advocacy and Leadership." Dr. Raines represented the Early Career Psychologists and met the APA President, Rosie Phillips Davis. The members also attended a dinner honoring Senator Bill Cassidy.

The members helped lobby for legislation, said Lacey Seymour, the Federal Advocacy Coordinator for LPA. These efforts included these topics: 1) to ensure access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment; 2) to pass the Medicare Mental Health Access Act, H.R. 884. The bill removes a roadblock that hampers and delays mental health treatment for Medicare beneficiaries by ending unnecessary physician sign-off and oversight of psychologists' services. Private sector health plans, the Veterans Health Administration, and TRICARE all allow licensed clinical psychologists to practice independently in all inpatient and outpatient settings. Medicare should, too; and 3) to pass the Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act, H.R. 1301. The Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act would make it easier for older adults to obtain mental health care in their own home by removing current-law restrictions on the use of telehealth services.



Dr. Amanda Raines (L) and APA President Dr. Rosie Davis.

...about LPA

We are the Louisiana Psychological Association, a group of psychologists, psychological scientists, professors, practitioners and students who have joined together to work toward our mission: "To advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare." This is a goal we embrace with the belief that psychology is in a position to have a significant, positive impact on our community and its people. Because of our scientific perspective, psychologists are unique. We represent both a science and a profession. We use the tools and methods of science, resting on a body of knowledge and theory, to ask questions and find valid answers in real world human problems. We believe that psychology must have a meaningful influence if our communities are to truly thrive.

Members' News...

Drs. Moore and Rasmussen Volunteer to Serve on LSBEP

LPA members Michelle Moore, PsyD and Lauren Rasmussen, PsyD offered to serve on the state psychology board and participated in the recent election. Dr. Moore received the most votes and will be recommended to the Governor for his appointment, on a list of names that LPA develops and sends to the Governor, sometime next month.

Dr. Cunningham in *The Hechinger Report*

Dr. Michael Cunningham authored "Divided We Learn," an article about lack of diversity in higher education, published in *The Hechinger Report*, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education. The article was also reprinted in *Tulanian Magazine*, a publication of Tulane University. In the article, Cunningham writes, "Among the most important issues in U.S. higher education right now is the lack of diversity in student and faculty populations. Michael is the chair for the LPA Diversity Committee.

Dr. Chafetz Named Outstanding 2019 Tulane Alumnus

The Tulane School of Science and Engineering has named Dr. Michael Chafetz for its prestigious Outstanding Alumni Award for 2019, announced by Dean Kimberly Foster and program director Candise Guedry. The selection was made by the Science & Engineering Board of Advisors Alumni Awards Committee. Dr. Chafetz chairs the LPA Awards Committee.

Committee News...

Legislative Affairs Reviews Legislative Bills, Says Dr. Reuther

The Legislative Affairs Committee has begun to review bills filed in preparation for the upcoming session, said Erin Reuther, chair of the committee. Reuther and her team are looking into sponsoring a breakfast or lunch to build relationships and help inform legislators on contributions of professional psychology. "Also, we have been discussing the idea of a letter that would be a 'calling card' for LPA," said Dr. Reuther. "This is a document that could be put on the website, distributed at events like a dinner or when a psychologist meets with his/her local legislator." The session starts April 8.

Professional Affairs

by Dr. VanGeffen

Co-chairs of the Professional Affairs Committee, Kim VanGeffen and Richard Nolon, attended the LSBEP meeting in March. News VanGeffen reported on included the following items.

LSBEP announced and presented LPA with the results of the recent election for the Board. The election results are certified by Simply Voting. 255 Psychologists voted in the election which is 32.2% of the 791 eligible voters. 12 psychologist (4.7% abstained). Following are the results:

Michelle B. Moore, Psy. D. [111 votes]
Gina L. Beverly, Ph.D. [73 votes]
Lauren W. Rasmussen, Psy.D. [35 votes]
Lisa L. Tropez-Arceneaux, Psy.D. [24 votes]

It was announced that Dr. Leah Crouch is resigning her position on LSBEP. Dr. Crouch is moving to Korea in May, 2019. This will create a vacancy on the Board. LSBEP will be asking for self nominations for Dr. Crouch's position and an election will be held.

LSBEP discussed the renewal of various contracts for services. These include the services of their investigator, their attorneys, their CPA and their Complaints Coordinators. There are currently three psychologists who serve as Complaints Coordinators: Dr. Sasha Lambert, Dr. Mark Vigen and Dr. Erin Skaff Wandenweghe. Complaints Coordinators are currently paid \$200.00 for the initial review of a complaint and a report of their findings. They are also paid \$100.00 per hour for participation in meetings with the Board as needed. LSBEP decided to increase to \$300.00 the fee paid for the initial review. LSBEP also discussed the renewal of the contract of the attorney, Deb Harkins, who monitors for LSBEP bills which may be introduced in the legislative session which may impact psychology licensure.

LSBEP has also received several applications from its requests for psychologists to apply to provide independent evaluations. This list will be used as a referral source and provided to psychologists and applicants for licensure who are required by the Board to submit to an independent evaluation in order to determine their ability to safely provide psychological services. The psychologist or applicant for licensure who is the subject of the evaluation will be allowed to select their evaluator from LSBEP's approved list. The psychologist being evaluated will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation.

Awards Committee Seeking Nominations

by Dr. Mike Chafetz

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations and self-nominations for awards for the upcoming Spring LPA Convention.

Distinguished Psychologist -- This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to psychology research, practice, or both during the course of their career. Nominees for this award should be in their careers past the 10-year mark.

Early Career Psychologist -- This award is given to an individual who is within 10 years of completing their doctorate in psychology and who has distinguished themselves by contributing to psychology research, practice, or both during the initial years of their career.

Distinguished Service in Psychology -- This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the professional field of psychology in Louisiana and beyond by their professional service.

Committee News... continued

Psychology in the Public Interest -- This award is given to an individual who has made significant scholarly or practical contributions to the health and well-being of the general public.

Contributions in Psychological Science -- This award is given to an individual who has increased knowledge of psychological concepts via research and dissemination of research findings.

For nominations, please send a brief letter documenting the reason for nomination and the individual's CV to one member of the LPA Awards Committee for review. Nominations are due by April 15, 2019.

Thank you from the LPA Awards Committee

Beth Arredondo (bethcaillouet@hotmail.com)

Mike Chafetz (mikechaf@yahoo.com)

Brian Mizuki (brian.mizuki@gmail.com)

Kim VanGeffen (kimvangeffen@cs.com)

Speakers Bureau is "Alive and Well"– Public Affairs

by Dr. Courtland Chaney

The LPA Speakers Bureau is alive and well! As many of you know, LPA finalized the creation of a speakers listing in late 2017 and placed a Speakers Bureau link in a prominent place on the LPA website shortly thereafter. The number of psychologists volunteering as potential speakers increased from 14 to 17 during the first year.

Organizations or groups looking for speakers have the option of contacting the listed psychologist directly or contacting the Chair of the Speakers Bureau, Courtland Chaney, or LPA for assistance.

Since potential speakers can be contacted directly when requesting a speaker, LPA has no way to determine how often our Speakers Bureau is utilized. I can tell you that I was contacted twice in recent weeks. One party was looking for a speaker in the Lafayette area and I put her in touch with someone at the University of Louisiana. The second group wanted a speaker on very short notice for a very specific topic and time (one hour on a Sunday morning). I finally was able to give her a referral, though I do not know if the connection was successful.

Since the LPA, through the efforts of the Public Affairs committee, plans to inform all Louisiana legislators about LPA and the profession of psychology, there is every reason to believe the LPA and the Speakers Bureau will receive more exposure in the near future.

Please Welcome our Newest Members!

A warm welcome to new members: Drs. Grace Bickham, Aimee Blackham, Sean Gibbs, Kelli Johnson, and Ms. Danica Kulibert

Convention Committee Finishes Schedule, Registration to Open Soon

The Convention Committee has announced the schedule of events for the 2019 Conference, to be held June 14 and 15 at the Sheraton Galleria in Metairie. Speakers include: Dr. Tony Puente, Past President of APA, Dr. Art Graesser, expert in interpersonal collaborative problem solving and artificial intelligence, Dr. Bill McCown, Dr. Daliah Bauer, Dr. David Atkins, Dr. Michael Chafetz, Dr. Marc Zimmermann, Dr. Michael Cunningham, Dr. John Rosegrant, Dr. Annadora Bruce-Keller, Dr. Gilda Reed, Dr. William Costelloe, Dr. Courtland Chaney and others including for the Scientific Poster Session and the Science Cafe, organized by Dr. Melissa Dufrene and Dr. T. Scott Smith.

Registration opens soon at the website.



Left to Right: Dr. Paula Zeanah, Dr. Christoph Leonhard, and Dr. Mike Chafetz at a Convention Committee planning event held to brainstorm ideas for the coming 2019 Convention.



LPA members met with Senator Cassidy who is an advocate for mental health legislation in the U.S. Senate. Left to Right: Dr. Amanda Raines, Sen. Cassidy, Dr. Lucinda DeGrange, Dr. Lacey Seymour.
(Photos courtesy of Dr. Raines)

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Alan Coulter, PhD
President-Elect

ValaRay Irvin, PhD
Secretary

William Costelloe, PhD
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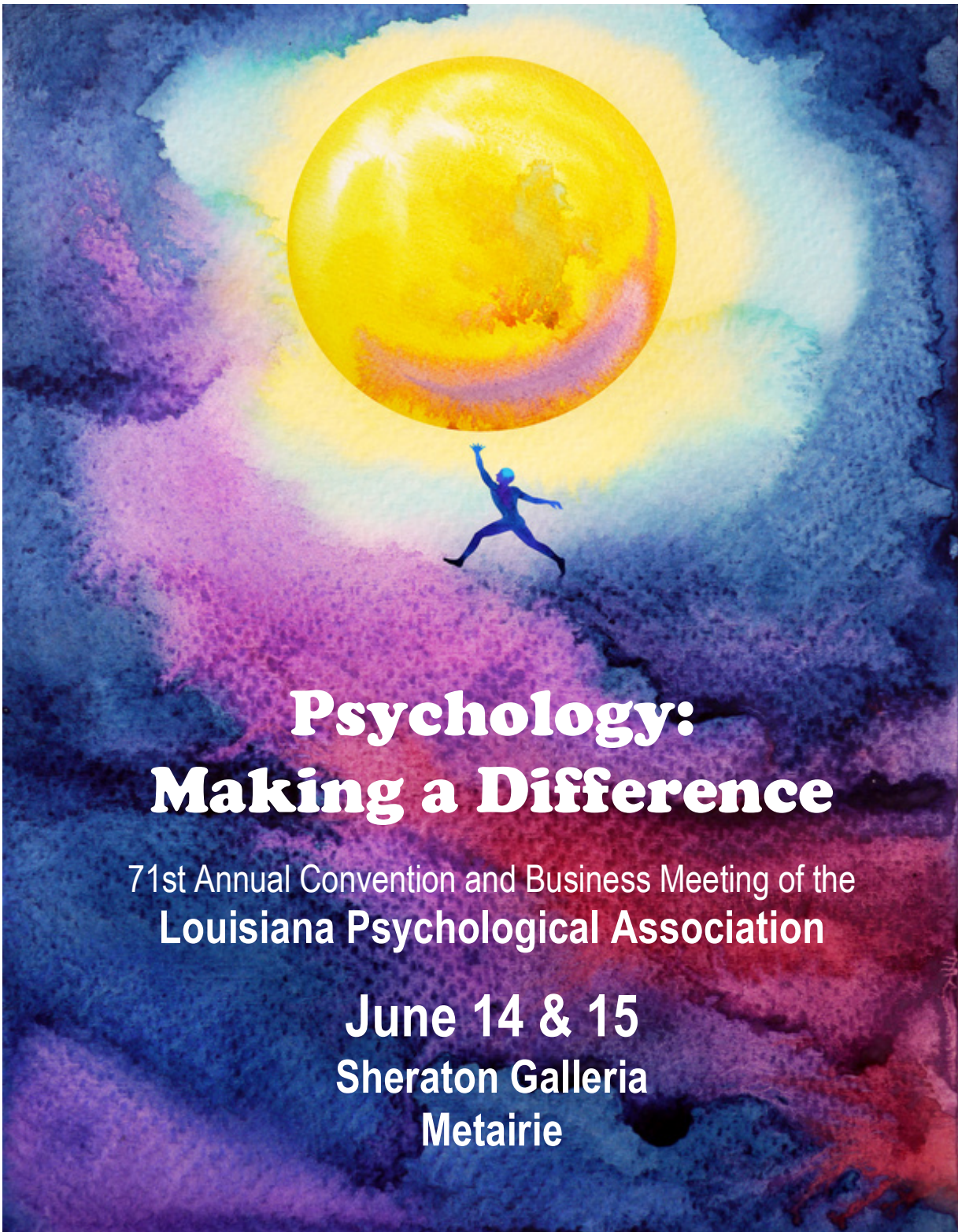
Bridget Sonnier-Hillis, PhD
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June 14 & 15
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